

**BACKUS, CARRANZA & BURDEN**  
 3050 SOUTH DURANGO  
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117  
 TELE: (702) 872-5555 FAX: (702) 872-5545

Jack P. Burden, Esq.  
 Nevada State Bar No. 6918  
**BACKUS, CARRANZA & BURDEN**  
 3050 South Durango Drive  
 Las Vegas, NV 89117  
 (702) 872-5555  
 (702) 872-5545  
[jbunden@backuslaw.com](mailto:jbunden@backuslaw.com)  
 Attorneys for Defendants  
 BJ'S Restaurant Operations Company

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

VERONICA P. STOKES, Individually,	) \
	)
Plaintiff,	)
	)
vs.	)
	)
BJ'S RESTAURANT OPERATIONS	)
COMPANY, a Foreign Corporation, dba	)
BJ'S RESTAURANT INC., DOES I through	)
X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X;	)
inclusive,	)
	)
Defendants.	)

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

Defendant BJ's Restaurant Operations Company ("Defendant"), by and through its counsel of record, BACKUS, CARRANZA & BURDEN, hereby files this instant notice of removal of this action to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, and in support thereof, states as follows:

**I.**  
**FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

1. Plaintiff VERONICA P. STOKES ("Plaintiff") is and was a resident of the State of Pennsylvania; and is therefore a citizen of Pennsylvania for purposes of diversity. *See* Complaint filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark County, Nevada, at ¶1, attached as Exhibit A.

2. Defendant BJ's Restaurant Operations Company is a company organized, existing,

1 and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, with its headquarters  
 2 and principal place of business in the State of California, and is therefore a citizen of California for  
 3 purposes of diversity.

4 3. Plaintiff's Complaint was filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark  
 5 County, Nevada on or about November 24, 2020. *See* Exhibit A.

6 4. The Summons and Complaint were served on Defendant on December 8, 2020. *See*  
 7 Summons, attached as Exhibit B and Affidavit of Service, attached as Exhibit C.

8 5. Plaintiff's action alleges that on or about December 27, 2018, she slipped on a wet  
 9 substance while exiting the women's restroom at the BJ's Restaurant located at 10840 West  
 10 Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada 89133 and sustained injuries. *See* Exhibit A at ¶¶6-8.  
 11 Plaintiff asserts a causes of action for negligence, negligent hiring, training supervision and  
 12 respondeat superior against Defendant. *Id.* at ¶¶9-25.

13 6. In her Complaint, Plaintiff seeks general and compensatory damages in an amount  
 14 in excess of \$50,000.00, special damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, for costs of  
 15 medical care, treatment and other expenses incurred once they are fully ascertained, for loss of  
 16 enjoyment of life, for reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit incurred. *Id.*

17 7. On December 13, 2020, Plaintiff served her Petition for Exemption from Non-  
 18 Binding Arbitration in which she disclosed that her damages 31,998.00 which does not include the  
 19 an undetermined amount from the surgery center that performed the open reduction procedure. *See*  
 20 Plaintiff's Request for Exemption from Arbitrations and Exhibits at pgs. 2-3, attached hereto as  
 21 Exhibit D.

## 22 23 24 25 **II.** 26 **DIVERSITY JURISDICTION**

27 8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1332(a), a federal district court "shall have original  
 28 jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of

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1 \$75,000” and the controversy is between “citizens of different states.” *See* 28 § U.S.C. 1332(a).

2 9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1), this case may be removed to the United States  
3 District Court for the District of Nevada because there is complete diversity of citizenship between  
4 Plaintiff and Defendant, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

5 10. There is complete diversity in this matter as Plaintiff is a citizen of Pennsylvania  
6 and Defendant is a citizen of California.

7 11. The requisite amount in controversy under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) is also met as  
8 Plaintiff claims that she is seeking over \$50,000.00 in general damages and over \$50,000 in  
9 special damages. Further, her disclosed damages are **\$31,998.0** which does include the surgery  
10 center costs for surgery. Accordingly, this Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §  
11 1332(a).

12 12. Defendant respectfully requests this matter be removed to the United States District  
13 Court for the District of Nevada.

### 14 **III.**

#### 15 **THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL HAVE BEEN SATISFIED**

16 13. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1) states: “The notice of removal of a civil action or  
17 proceeding shall be filed within 30 days after the receipt by the defendant, through service or  
18 otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action  
19 or proceeding is based, or within 30 days after the service of summons upon the defendant if such  
20 initial pleading has then been filed in court and is not required to be served on the defendant,  
21 whichever period is shorter.”

22 14. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(3) states: “Except as provided in subsection (c), if the case  
23 stated by the initial pleading is not removable, a notice of removal may be filed within thirty days  
24 after receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of an amended pleading,  
25 motion, order or other paper from which it may first be ascertained that the case is one which is or  
26

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1 has become removable.”

2 15. In addition, 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2)(A)(ii) provides that for removal based on  
3 diversity jurisdiction, the sum demanded in good faith in the initial pleading shall be deemed to be  
4 the amount in controversy except when the initial pleading seeks a monetary judgment, but the  
5 State practice, such as in Nevada, either does not permit demand for a specific sum or permits  
6 recovery of damages in excess of the amount demanded.” *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2)(A)(ii).  
7

8 16. This instant Notice for Removal is timely in that it is filed within 10 days of the  
9 first notice that Plaintiff’s claimed damages would more likely exceed \$75,000 via her Request for  
10 Exemption from Arbitration which was filed on January 13, 2021.

11 17. This Court has original jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action, pursuant  
12 to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as there is complete diversity between the parties and there is more than  
13 \$75,000 in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs.  
14

15 18. Pursuant to the 28 U.S.C. § 1441, this action is one which may be removed to this  
16 Court.

17 19. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(1), the date for this removal is not more than one  
18 year after the commencement of the state court action, i.e., November 24, 2020.

19 20. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A), there is only one defendant in this case who  
20 filed this instant notice of removal.

21 21. A true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Clerk for  
22 the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.  
23

24 22. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, a true and correct copy of all process, pleadings, and  
25 orders served upon Defendant in the state court are attached hereto. *See* Complaint attached as  
26 Exhibit A, Summons attached as Exhibit B, Affidavit of Service attached as Exhibit C, Plaintiff’s  
27 Request for Exemption from Arbitration with Exhibits attached as Exhibit D, Defendant’s Answer  
28

1 attached as Exhibit E, Defendant's Demand for Jury Trial attached as Exhibit F, and Defendant's  
2 Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure attached as Exhibit G.

3 23. Therefore, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendant is entitled to  
4 remove this action to this Court.

5 **PRAYER**

6  
7 24. WHEREFORE, Defendant prays that the above-entitled action be removed from  
8 the Eighth Judicial District Court in and for Clark County, Nevada.

9  
10 DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

11 Respectfully Submitted,  
12 **BACKUS, CARRANZA & BURDEN**

13  
14 By: /s/ Jack P. Burden  
15 Jack P. Burden, Esq.  
16 3050 South Durango Drive  
17 Las Vegas, NV 89117  
18 Attorneys for Defendant  
19 BJ'S Restaurant Operations Company  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I am a resident of and employed in Clark County, Nevada. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is: 3050 South Durango Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89117.

On January 19, 2021, I served this document on the parties listed on the attached service list via one or more of the methods of service described below as indicated next to the name of the served individual or entity by a checked box:

**VIA U.S. MAIL:** by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Las Vegas, Nevada. I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence by mailing. Under that practice, it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage fully prepaid at Las Vegas, Nevada in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing an affidavit.

**VIA FACSIMILE:** by transmitting to a facsimile machine maintained by the attorney or the party who has filed a written consent for such manner of service.

**BY PERSONAL SERVICE:** by personally hand-delivering or causing to be hand delivered by such designated individual whose particular duties include delivery of such on behalf of the firm, addressed to the individual(s) listed, signed by such individual or his/her representative accepting on his/her behalf. A receipt of copy signed and dated by such an individual confirming delivery of the document will be maintained with the document and is attached.

**BY E-MAIL:** by transmitting a copy of the document in the format to be used for attachments to the electronic-mail address designated by the attorney or the party who has filed a written consent for such manner of service.

**BY CM/ECF SYSTEM:** by transmitting via the United States District Court's CM/ECF System to the following individuals for which such service is designated on the Service List.

ATTORNEYS OF RECORD	PARTIES REPRESENTED	METHOD OF SERVICE
Kevin M. Hanratty, Esq. Hanratty Law Group 1815 Village Center Circle #140 Las Vegas, NV 89134 T: 702.821.1379 F: 702.870.1846 <a href="mailto:Kevin@HanrattyLawGroup.com">Kevin@HanrattyLawGroup.com</a>	Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal service <input type="checkbox"/> Email service <input type="checkbox"/> Fax service <input type="checkbox"/> Mail service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Means

I declare that under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the above is true and correct. I further declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Anne Raymundo  
An employee of BACKUS, CARRANZA & BURDEN